



**KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Commissioner's Guiding Coalition
SUMMARY**

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 13, 2019

ATTENDANCE:

Melissa Aguilar, Joshua Benton, Candis Haskell, Jay Box, Travis Burton, Rhonda Caldwell, Ronda Harmon, Donna House, Nancy Hutchinson, Tim Murley, Eric Kennedy (on behalf of Kerri Shelling) Jim Flynn

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dave Adkisson, Kelly Davis, Cherie Dimar, Elisabeth Larson, Sherry W. Powers, Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Stan Torzewski, Wayne Young

SUMMARY:

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenter: Dr. Wayne D. Lewis, Commissioner

Summary of Discussion:

Dr. Lewis welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

Action Taken:

None

Follow-up Required:

None

Agenda Item: Read Up Program

Presenter: Amanda Ellis, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer

Summary of Discussion: The goal for the Read Up Program was to get communities, families and children involved in reading throughout the summer. The Read Up program partnered with

Children's Literacy Association to pass out flyers and signs in 11 districts. A billboard was also put up for advertisement.

When children came for the free summer lunch program they were not allowed to "grab and go," but instead would need to sit down and enjoy their lunch. At that time someone read to the children and handed out free books. Books were not hand-me-down, they were new and a lot of the staff passing out food were surprised/impressed by that. Books were donated by Penguin Books, CHFS, First Books and the Governor's Office of Early Childhood.

Over 1,000 books were distributed. The program needs more funding in order to expand. Some older students were worried about not looking "cool," but brought their younger siblings. The main age group was K-6th grade.

Jay Box shared similar outreach going on in Hazard – Tuesday Night Live.

Melissa Aguilar expressed a desire to engage high school students. Maybe helping them with college applications.

Action Taken:

None.

Follow-up Required:

Requested list of districts served. Requested from Amanda Ellis and will share when received.

Working on getting numbers for overall impact.

Agenda Item: KDE Teacher Shortage

Presenter: Rob Akers, Associate Commissioner

Summary of Discussion: The goal for KDE is to find more ways to recruit teachers. College students pursuing education degrees have declined 13%. KDE has partnered with Urban Schools Human Capital Academy (USHCA) to develop strategies for recruitment and retention. A tool kit has been built and they are now going to share it with superintendents and principals.

It is not enough to recruit but support is needed on the backside. KDE has split its Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness into two divisions: recruitment and preparation. Providing alternative routes for certification is currently the main focus. There are now eight pathways that are going to be promoted. Districts are also being taught how to think outside of the box on how they are recruiting teachers.

There is currently a Kentucky Academy for Equity in Teaching (KAET) grant being offered. For every year worked as a teacher, one year of the grant is paid off. Any student who accepts the grant will be provided a mentor for financial guidance, how to get and stay teaching and over all support. Some schools are allowing students to receive dual credit and early admission.

The www.GoTeachKY.com website has been launched although some areas are still under construction. Newer generations are more attracted to energy, saving the world and mobility.

The Praxis is a stumbling block for completion. The math portion has been revamped to be more like what is used in the classroom.

Dr. Lewis commented that we need some way to demonstrate content mastery before teachers go in the classroom.

Josh Benton noted that there are 146,000 open jobs in Kentucky and 26,000 job seekers (approximately six jobs for every unemployed person). He also commented that this shortage is not unique to education or Kentucky.

We need to “Sell the good!”

Action Required:

None

Follow-up Required:

Rob Akers will find and share pass rates for the Praxis.

Agenda Item: KDE Goal Progress

Presenter: Melody Cooper, Strategic Plan Program Manager

Summary of Discussion: The strategic plan has been in effect for a little over a year. KDE has been intentional about bringing it into their day-to-day conversation, and some offices have developed their own plans to align with KDE’s overall plan.

See attached PowerPoint to review results.

Action Required:

None

Follow-up Required:

None

Agenda Item: Accountability System – Star Ratings

Presenter: Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner

Summary of Discussion: A star rating is being implemented for the first time this year. Schools will be rated by stars: with one as the lowest score to five as the highest. Measures factored in include: proficiency, growth, graduation and readiness.

Comprehensive School of Improvement (CSI) is a federal designation for the bottom 5% of schools. For data that is not yet available, the department will mathematically distribute that weight accordingly.

The star rating will be based on a combination of every weight in each category. Ms. Sims is very close to having the final members of the standards setting committee. Representatives are from all across the state and includes two Kentucky Board of Education members along with 18 other members. The first meeting will be held on August 23, 2019 where they will craft a narrative for what each star level should be. There will be a level or threshold on each indicator. The questions is, what does each number mean? The rating of each school will not be affected by other schools around them.

Action Required:

None

Follow-up Required:

None

Agenda Item: Adjournment Presenter: Dr. Wayne D. Lewis, Commissioner

Summary of Discussion:

The next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2019 (NOTE: This date was wrong on the agenda. The meeting was previously moved from November 12 to November 6.)

Action Taken:

None.

Follow-up Required:

None.

The staff person assigned to this advisory group is responsible for the summary notes, which should be checked for accuracy and accessibility, then emailed as one Word document to KDE Communications within five business days of the meeting. Thank you!